

**Please replace the Abstract at page 14, lines 1 through 8 with the following amended Abstract:**

# ABSTRACT

## METHOD OF REACTING CARBOXYLIC ACID

(FIGURE 4)

A carboxylic acid molecule ( $R\text{ COOH}$ ) is subjected to an electric field in a micro-reactor-(14). The molecule ~~decarboxyles~~ decarboxylates to form a radical ( $R^{\bullet}$ ). Two radicals ( $R^{\bullet}$ ) can ~~dimerise~~ dimerize to form the product ( $R - R$ ). It is believed that the reaction occurs away from the electrodes used to apply the electric field {but may also occur at the electrode surfaces}.